



# The Wide Awake

## Bulletin



**The Lincoln Group of New York** FEBRUARY 2011  
DEDICATED TO THE STUDY OF THE LIFE AND TIMES OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN

### An Interview with Paul Ellis-Graham



Paul Ellis-Graham

**W**ith Paul Ellis-Graham completing his first year as president, *The Wide Awake* thought it would be a good time to interview him so all Lincoln Group of New York members can get a better idea of Paul's background and interests:

**WA: What is your profession?**

*PE-G:* I have been a social studies teacher for the last 31 years. My current employer is the Monroe-Woodbury School District in Central Valley, New York. I have been teaching American History & Government and History Through Film at MWHS for the last 23 years.

**WA: What first sparked your interest in Abraham Lincoln?**

*PE-G:* While I have had a lifelong interest in Abraham Lincoln, I credit my deep devotion to the study of his life to Stephen B. Oates who was my professor at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst for several graduate and undergraduate courses.

**WA: Is there any one aspect of Lincoln studies that appeals most to you?**

*PE-G:* Lincoln is such a fascinating person that I find all aspects of his life appealing. I am amazed at what he accomplished despite his early childhood poverty. His sense of humor in the face of tragedy, his ability to articulate some of our most cherished ideals, and his sense of history are truly inspirational.

**WA: Do you have a favorite Lincoln book and if so, why is it your favorite?**

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### Eric Foner Wins Award of Achievement for 2010



Eric Foner

***The Fiery Trial: Abraham Lincoln and American Slavery*** by Eric Foner is the winner of The Lincoln Group of New York's 2010 Award of Achievement for the best Lincoln work of the year. We will honor Professor Foner, Columbia University's DeWitt Clinton Professor of History, and present him with the Award at our February 15, 2011 meeting.

Foner is one of the country's most prominent historians and has published numerous books

including *Reconstruction: America's Unfinished Revolution, 1863-1877* (1988) which won the Bancroft Prize, the Parkman Prize, and the Los Angeles Times Book Award.

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**Editor: Steven R. Koppelman**

**Photographer & Artist:  
Henry F. Ballone**

**2010 Meetings Review**

**2010** was a year of “ringing in the new” at *The Lincoln Group of New York* as a new slate of Officers and Executive Committee members provided us with meetings that offered a fresh view of the life and times of our 16<sup>th</sup> President...



**March 3, 2010**

There was a buzz in the air as Joseph Garrera, after announcing that he was stepping down as president of *The Lincoln Group of New York*, introduced the new officers—Paul Ellis-Graham as president, and Henry F. Ballone as vice-president. Joe also announced three new members of the Executive Committee—Michael Gray, Robert Langford, and Stuart Schneider.



**Joe Garrera & Paul Ellis-Graham**



**Paul Ellis-Graham & Henry F. Ballone**

With the “torch passed,” new president Paul Ellis-Graham made a very gracious speech, thanking friends and colleagues, as well as providing the group with information about his background and experience. The stage was now set for Dr. Ronald C. White, Jr., to provide the lecture for the evening titled, “Abraham Lincoln 2010: Wisdom for Today.”

Dr. White told how Lincoln’s words speak to us across time as he explained how, in his biography, *A. Lincoln*, he tried to “open up windows on Lincoln.” One way in which he attempted to do this

was in spending extra time focusing on the young Lincoln. Dr. White went on to detail some of Lincoln’s most moving writings, stating that one must really read Lincoln’s words aloud in order to get their full impact. He closed by stating that he believes that the window on Lincoln’s faith still needs more opening. It was truly an eloquent presentation as White’s melodious voice added to the overall effect.



**Dr. Ronald C. White, Jr.**

Prior to the lecture, Steven R. Koppelman, award committee chair, presented Dr. White with the 2009 Award of Achievement for his outstanding biography, *A. Lincoln*. Koppelman, in conferring the award stated that White’s work “is notably distinctive in its approach as Lincoln’s evolving intellect is the focal point around which all revolves. He uses what Lincoln read, wrote, and said, to demonstrate his growth and development. This synthesis and analysis of Lincoln’s thoughts and words makes this biography truly unique.”



**Steven R. Koppelman, Chair, Dr. Ronald C. White, Jr., Joseph A. Truglio & Michael P. Gray, Ph.D**

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**2010 Meetings Review, continued**

**N**ovember 11, 2010

Veteran's Day brought a plethora of activities and presentations for the large group of attendees. First, and most appropriately, Executive Committee member Hal Gross gave a rousing and inspiring rendition of the Gettysburg Address to which, a standing ovation followed! Though Lincoln's original presentation of this speech may have received mixed reviews, Hal's were nothing but outstanding.



**Hal Gross**



**Henry F. Ballone, Paul Ellis-Graham & Joseph Garrera**

Next, President Paul Ellis-Graham and Vice-President Henry F. Ballone presented former President Joseph Garrera with a plaque and replica of Lincoln's watch, for outstanding work in serving as the president of The Lincoln Group of New York. The plaque read:

**PRESENTED TO JOSEPH GARRERA  
IN APPRECIATION OF HIS EXCEPTIONAL LEADERSHIP,  
OUTSTANDING VISION AND  
SUPERIOR DEDICATION AS PRESIDENT,  
THE LINCOLN GROUP OF NEW YORK, 1999 - 2010**



**Harold Holzer, Valerie Paley & Paul Ellis-Graham**

The presentations were by no means complete. The New-York Historical Society received a citation for its exhibition "Lincoln and New York." Valerie Paley, project editor, accepted the citation. Harold Holzer received a citation as chief historian for the exhibit, and for his successful work and outstanding accomplishments

as co-chair of the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Committee. The two citations read as follows:

**THE LINCOLN GROUP OF NEW YORK  
Expresses Appreciation To  
THE NEW-YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
For Commemorating The Bicentennial  
Of Abraham Lincoln's Birth  
With Its Outstanding Programs,  
Including Its Exhibition  
"LINCOLN AND NEW YORK"**

**The Lincoln Group of New York  
Expresses its appreciation to  
HAROLD HOLZER  
For his many outstanding contributions during the  
Bicentennial of Abraham Lincoln's Birth  
Notably  
Co-Chairman The President's Bicentennial Commission  
and  
Chief Historian  
The New-York Historical Society's  
"Lincoln and New York" Exhibit**

Next, it was altogether fitting and proper to remember long-time Executive committee member Milton Seltzer who passed away earlier in the year as his son Jordan and daughter-in-law Laura were in attendance (more on Milt on page 6). Paul Ellis-Graham reminded us of the wonderfully creative holiday cards that Milt sent each year, Frank McKenna gave an emotional and touching tribute to Milt, and Richard Sloan told a superb story about Milt that, to him, was a classic example of Milt and their personal relationship.

Finally, the guest of honor, James Swanson, gave The Lincoln Group of New York a very poignant presentation on his new book, *Bloody Crimes: The Chase for Jefferson Davis and the Death Pageant for Lincoln's Corpse*. Mr. Swanson emphasized the theme of "final journeys" as he spoke of his prior book, *The New York Times* bestseller, *Manhunt: The 12-Day Chase for Lincoln's Killer*. This same theme is what led him to write his new book. He spoke of how moved he had been in the Washington DC cemetery that had once contained the remains/tomb of Willie Lincoln as well as one of Jefferson Davis's sons. This led to a most interesting discussion of the many similarities between Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis...and then of course, the profound differences. Provocatively, Mr. Swanson referred to Lincoln and Davis as the "greatest killers in American history." It was a most interesting presentation.



**James Swanson**

## On the Lincoln Trail in Kentucky

### On the Lincoln Trail in Kentucky

Article and Photos: Steven R. Koppelman

So what should you do if you need to go to Indianapolis on business? Obviously, you should choose to go a day early, fly into Louisville (only a two-hour drive from Indianapolis) and spend the day visiting the various Lincoln related sites in the area. Well, maybe it is not so obvious, but nonetheless, it was to me, and so that is exactly what I did in August 2010.

Just an easy one-hour drive from Louisville is the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Park. The weather was sunny, 93 degrees, and extremely humid—a typical August day. Here, inside a marble and granite temple-like memorial, sitting on top of the hill (with 56 steps leading up to it—one for each year Lincoln lived) that Lincoln was supposed to have been born on, is a replica of the iconic log cabin of his birth. I knew in advance that the National Park Service closed the temple structure for interior renovations and that I would not actually be able to see the log cabin. I would have been extremely disappointed had it been the real cabin, however, given that it was only a replica (and not even the correct size), it really did not matter to me. Theodore Roosevelt laid the cornerstone of the memorial in 1909.



**Lincoln Birthplace**

Other points of interest at the birth site are the Sinking Spring, just below the hill where the memorial now sits, presumably the water source that the Lincoln family used, and the namesake of the farm. In addition, there is a marking where a large oak tree once stood. This was one of the boundaries of the Lincoln land tract—the tree died in the 1970s and was an estimated 195 years old at the time.

There really were not many people visiting the site while I was there, perhaps only a dozen or so, and it was almost eerily quiet—this actually led to improving the experience, as it was easier to imagine how it must have been here 200 years earlier.

With this location explored, it was time to move north about nine miles, as the Lincoln family did in 1811, to Abraham's early boyhood home on Knob Creek where he lived until he was seven when the family moved to Indiana. This place formed Lincoln's earliest memories about which he often spoke and wrote. On the site sits his cabin, again a replica, but this one is to scale, and it has been said that the logs are from the cabin of one of his boyhood friends. Actually seeing how small the cabin is adds greatly to the experience because though you can read about the size, there is no substitution for actually seeing the true dimensions.



**Lincoln Boyhood Home**

Near the cabin site is the actual Knob Creek, though at least at the time of my visit, I would say it was more of a puddle than a creek. One can also view the knob-like hills that surround the farm (and provided its name), as well as the farm area itself. It was here, on this land, that Lincoln and his sister planted a garden, where his baby brother was born and died, and where he likely first saw African Americans being lead south to be sold into slavery (as the Lincoln farm essentially sat on the main route between Louisville, Kentucky and Nashville, Tennessee).

Hodgenville, Kentucky (known as Hodgen's Mill when Lincoln was born) is where the Birthplace Memorial and Boyhood Home are located. The "downtown" area (3 miles north of the birthplace and 6 miles south of the boyhood home) is home to The Lincoln Museum and a famous Lincoln statue that sits in the center of the town circle. Adolph A. Weinman as part of the 1909 Lincoln Centennial celebration created the statue of a seated Lincoln.

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**Lincoln Group of New York photos & many more Lincoln & Civil War photos can be seen on Henry F. Ballone's web site at:**  
[web.me.com/civilwarnut](http://web.me.com/civilwarnut)

## On the Lincoln Trail in Kentucky, continued



**Downtown Hodgenville**

The museum, though small, is certainly worth the \$3 entry fee. The main exhibits are 12 dioramas depicting key points in Lincoln's life from his boyhood in Kentucky to his assassination. This is extremely similar to what has been done, on a larger scale, at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum in Springfield Illinois. In addition to the dioramas, there is an art gallery with paintings, drawings, and other artwork related to Lincoln.

With these early Lincoln sites now behind me, I had one more Lincoln location that I very much wanted to visit—this one, back in Louisville—Farmington, the Speed family slave plantation. It was in 1841 that Lincoln spent a few weeks here at Joshua Speed's invitation, to recover from a bout of melancholy that he was suffering from, purportedly as a result of (perhaps among other things) breaking off his engagement to Mary Todd.

Farmington was likely the first slave plantation that Lincoln ever visited (approximately 60 enslaved African Americans lived here) and the most luxurious place he had ever stayed. A 550-



**Farmington Plantation**

acre hemp plantation, the federal-style main house built during 1815-1816, is Jeffersonian in design with two octagonal rooms in the center of the house. It is not known which room Lincoln stayed in, but he certainly spent a good deal of time in the parlor as well as the formal dining room. The home is decorated in the bright and colorful fashion of the times with striped carpeting and "loud" wallpaper in both the dining room and parlor.

On the grounds of Farmington among the outbuildings and gardens that Lincoln certainly roamed, is a slavery memorial dedicated "In Memory of the Enslaved African Americans at Farmington." One cannot help but recall that it was shortly after leaving Farmington, in a letter to Speed's sister Mary dated September 27, 1841, that Lincoln made his famous (and first) written observation of slavery, writing about a scene he witnessed on board the steamboat from Kentucky. He stated, "A gentleman had purchased twelve negroes...strung together precisely like so many fish upon a trot-line...in this condition they were being separated forever from the scenes of their childhood...going into perpetual slavery...and yet amid all these distressing circumstances...they were the most cheerful and apparently happy creatures on board. How true it is that God...renders the worst of human conditions tolerable, while he permits the best, to be nothing better than tolerable."

With all of that in mind and much to contemplate, it was time for me to leave Kentucky as well, heading north to Indianapolis for my work. We can all read about Lincoln, but there is something very special about supplementing that knowledge by actually visiting and experiencing historic places. It allows for a more comprehensive understanding, and provides an enhanced perspective on both the man and his times.



## Eric Foner Wins Award - continued

The Award Committee for 2010 was comprised of Steven R. Koppelman, Chair, Joseph E. Garrera, and Joseph A. Truglio. Ultimately, it is the objective of the Award Committee to select the work that does the most to encourage the study and appreciation of Abraham Lincoln—this is the committee's mission. The committee agreed unanimously that this book is the clear winner in 2010. Though numerous books have appeared on Lincoln's life, this book is unique in that it focuses on Lincoln's evolving ideas and policies about slavery from his early life throughout his entire career. As Steve Koppelman stated, "This work is an epic achievement, truly indispensable. It is the final word on Lincoln and the issue of slavery and emancipation." Joe Truglio affirmed that this book is "one of the most enlightening efforts on the attempt to understand just who Lincoln really was."



## In Memoriam: Milton Seltzer

**I**n 2010, The Lincoln Group of New York lost longtime Executive Committee member Milton Seltzer. Perhaps the best way to honor the man is to reproduce here, his son Jordan's moving eulogy, given at Milt's funeral on July 11, 2010:

I'd like to share with you some of my thoughts and memories about my father. My dad having been very fortunate to live 92 years had many different stages in his life that all contributed to the unique person he was. Many of you were aware of some of his experiences I'm going to describe, but few of you are aware of all of them. What I'm sure you all know however was that from the moment you first met him, he added some joy to each and every one of you. He had the unique ability to relate to all types of people, irrespective of their background. It didn't matter what your age, race, religion, economic status or educational level was. He had a way to connect with you as if he had the exact same background as you. We all have this ability to some extent, but I'm sure each of you actually felt the unique power I'm describing.

I think that magic stems from his life experiences, which would make an interesting "Hollywood Biography". I want to first describe his life to you and then talk about his character. I think the description of his life will help explain how the character developed.

My dad was born in Romania in 1918 and emigrated to the US in 1920, making Neal and I first generation Americans. He came to America by ship at the age of two with his older brothers Aaron, Sam, Harry and Dave, his sister Alice, and his parents Joseph and Sophie. My dad, being the youngest, is only survived by his older brother Aaron, who I am so thankful, was able to get here today. I want to thank Aaron's neighbors the Stietzel's for driving him here.

On that long voyage to America from Romania, the ship nearly capsized in the Black Sea during an extremely severe storm. I think that that must be where my dad established his sea legs, which came in mighty handy for his Navy experience. For any of you who have gone boating with me, you know I obviously didn't inherit *that* trait!

The five "Seltzer Boys", as they were known in Brooklyn were a really tough bunch who always looked out for one another. My dad told many stories, but one of my favorites describes when he was about 8 years old. He and Aaron who was about 10 years old at the time went to summer camp. At that camp, one of the weekly events was Friday Night boxing matches. One day a bully, much bigger than my dad, started picking on my father. When Aaron caught word of what happened he immediately challenged the bully to a boxing match for that Friday night. The boxing match took place and leave it to say, that bully never bothered my dad again. The "Seltzer Boys" grew up to be wrestlers, boxers, and weight lifters. Aaron became a New York City junior metropolitan wrestling champ and Sam just missed going to the 1932 Olympics for wrestling.

The family didn't speak any English when they arrived in America. I don't think my grandfather ever understood or spoke English. My grandmother learned to understand the language, but only spoke a little. It's amazing how my dad, a Romanian immigrant, not only achieved a masters degree from NYU, but also



Milton Seltzer

was one of the most well read people I have ever known. His home is filled with books, the vast majority non-fiction.

My dad grew up in a different world than many of us. He recalled horses on the streets of New York; elevated trains in Manhattan and trolleys in Brooklyn; tons of electric wires overhead in the city, rather than buried as they are today. My dad as a child lived through the depression and often recalled its difficulties.

During World War II, my dad enlisted in the Navy and became a submariner. Because of its high risk, the submarine service was one of the few branches of the service that was 100% voluntary. "Alky" as his sub mates called him, which was short for Alka-Seltzer, as opposed to a reference to the fact that he enjoyed an ice-cold beer as much as any of us, saw a tremendous amount of action throughout the Pacific. According to many historians, his submarine – the USS Steelhead – along with two other US submarines was involved in one of the most harrowing submarine battles during the war. The battle earned one of the three submarine commanders the Congressional Medal of Honor.

His descriptions of the many depth charge attacks he survived were terrorizing, and I believe contributed most to his unique love for life. He described how hard it was to try and ignore the sound of depth charges exploding around the sub. I recall him describing one sub mate who was staring at a book for a while trying to distract himself from the thunder of the depth charges, unaware that the book was upside down. My dad said the most comforting sound he ever heard in this world was the sound of depth charges becoming progressively quieter, indicating that the enemy had lost track of the Steelhead's location.

The American submarine service incurred one of the highest casualty rates of any branch of the service. Close to one in four US submarines was sunk during the war, almost always placing the entire crew on Eternal Patrol – that's submarine talk for making the ultimate sacrifice. I think my dad was most proud of the fact that after the Japanese surrendered, their military leadership considered the US submarine service to be the greatest cause of Japan's downfall.

After the War, my dad had many interests and passions, most particularly teaching, building things around the house, reading, and learning about Lincoln.

He spent about 30 years working for the Board of Education in the City of New York, where he worked in a couple of junior high schools as a teacher and an assistant principal. These schools were located in some of the roughest neighborhoods in the country – one of which averaged one murder per day. The stressful environment was difficult, but no match for him after his USS Steelhead experience. I remember roaming the halls of his schools

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## In Memoriam: Milton Seltzer, continued

a couple of times with Neal when I was only about seven years old. I recall the students, the vast majority of which were Black and poor, telling Neal and me how great our dad was. Even at our young age, Neal and I realized that he had an unusually good rapport with those students.

Around the house, my dad was the original Bob Villa. He could build and fix anything – and I mean anything. It didn't matter whether it was carpentry related, electrical related, plumbing, cement work, tile work, wallpaper, paneling. He installed dishwashers, skylights, toilets, made windows become walls, made walls become windows, extended patios, installed lighting, put closets where closets previously did not exist, and much more.

Upon retiring from the Board of Education, nothing slowed him down. He became very active in The Lincoln Group of New York for the last 30 years and was proud to serve on its Executive Board. He established close relationships with some of the world's most renowned Lincoln historians. Their kind words, upon hearing of his death were a testament to him. His knowledge of Lincoln was extraordinary and his character was largely influenced by him.

My dad put on a Lincoln display in the Wantagh Public Library every year in honor of Lincoln's birthday for over 40 years. Each display focused on a different theme. His creativity and artistic abilities were miraculous. My dad also made numerous presentations at libraries, schools, and other community locations about Abraham Lincoln.

He also was an officer in the Runner Chapter of the World War II Submarine Veterans Organization for the past few decades and made it his mission to help perpetuate the memory of those submariners who made the ultimate sacrifice for all our freedom. He often organized and made speeches at Memorial Day ceremonies in Eisenhower Park and other locations. Two years ago, he was monumental in getting an authentic World War II submarine torpedo established in the Veteran's Memorial at Eisenhower Park to honor his fallen shipmates. The dedication of the monument was written up in Newsday and will remain an amazing display for decades to come. He also was instrumental in establishing a landmark at the country's first submarine base, located in New Suffolk, New York. As editor of the Runner Chapter's newsletter for more than twenty years, he played a vital role in maintaining communications amongst these American Heroes.

Throughout all of what I described, nothing ever took priority in his life over his family. He meant so much to my mother (whom he was crazy about), to Neal and to me. He was a devoted, loving husband, father, father-in-law and grandfather. It was in these roles where his sweet character was most evident.

In thinking about his many wonderful traits, those that came to mind most quickly are his thoughtfulness, his ability to cheer people up and his loving and caring nature.

I can recall many examples of his thoughtfulness. Some of those include him always sending personalized birthday and holiday cards. His cards always were touching, humorous and very creative. He often hand drew a seltzer bottle logo on the back of the cards and labeled them El Cheapo Card Company. One day he saw a contest advertised in Newsday for the best home made holiday

card and he sent in his current year's creation. And while that card was just one of hundreds that he had designed, he won the contest. It contained a picture of Abraham Lincoln wearing a Santa Claus hat.

He also created many beautiful posters for special family events including births, first days of school, graduations and anniversaries. We still have photos of Neal holding his first day of kindergarten poster and just three weeks ago took a photo of Michael and Julia holding their high school graduation poster.

Another way my dad often demonstrated his thoughtfulness was by sending people books about subjects he knew they would enjoy. Usually these books were inscribed with a personal touching message about the recipient, always in his beautiful penmanship. The books often came from his personal library.

The last example of thoughtfulness that I'm going to share with you today is the fact that he probably gave more eulogies for friends and relatives than anyone else ever did, except for rabbis and priests. And let me tell you, this being my first time, it's not easy.

With regard to telling jokes, saying funny things on the spur of the moment, and recalling humorous stories, no one was better than he. His delivery was consistently amazing. He could tell the same stories and say his funny responses repeatedly over the years, and still crack me up even when I knew what was coming. For example, when I would call him and ask him how his doctor's appointment was, he would often say, "the doctor is feeling fine." I can't tell you how many times at Thanksgiving he would tell the same joke. "What did the Pilgrims say at the first Thanksgiving?" Then he would respond, "Let's do this again next year."

A few years ago, when my Dad, Laura, Michael, Julia, and I visited the World War II memorial in Washington D.C. we had dinner at my Cousin Fred's home. After dinner Fred's daughter Samara, who was about 8 years old at the time, performed for the entire family on her musical instrument. After several songs, her mother politely suggested she retire to their TV room, but Samara insisted on taking requests for more songs. None of us at the table knew what to say, but my dad was quick to ask her if she knew how to play "Far, Far Away". We all had a good laugh.

When Neal and I were in the high school marching band, I recall my dad saying that the band only had two size uniforms: too big and too small.

And then there was the one where he would say, "I only drink on two occasions. When I'm alone and when I'm with someone."

Dad, I'm so happy you hardly suffered on your eternal patrol, but boy am I going to miss you!



**Milton & Jordan Seltzer  
November 27, 2007**

## An Interview with Paul Ellis-Graham, continued

PE-G: My overall favorite Lincoln book is Oates' *With Malice Toward None*. His description of the key moments in Lincoln's life led me to look at events in my own life years ago such as my family's financial struggles, the importance of an education, and the promise that America offers the world. The most powerful scene is his description of the assassination. I read that section aloud to my students every year. More recently, I've enjoyed James Swanson's *Manhunt* and Douglas Wilson's *Lincoln's Sword*.

**WA: What is your favorite Lincoln related site that you have visited?**

PE-G: This summer I was in Washington State and visited Lincoln Rock State Park. I had never heard of it before and found it very interesting. It reminded me of New Hampshire's "Old Man in the Mountains" (before that formation's recent demise). The new Abraham Lincoln Museum in Springfield, IL was a wonderful place to visit. The re-creation of the president's casket in a setting of the White House moved me to tears. For an authentic, natural site, I liked his boyhood home in Indiana the best.

**WA: Do you collect any Lincoln related items and if so, what?**

PE-G: I collect all types of Lincoln-related items as long as they're not too expensive. Most of my Lincoln collectibles are either books or movies. Other such pieces include several anniversary pins, busts of Lincoln, Lincoln postage stamps, and products sold by companies that used Lincoln's image. I dream of getting an authentic Lincoln signature someday.

**WA: If you had the opportunity to go back in time, what one question would you most like to ask Abraham Lincoln?**

PE-G: Having also suffered from depression, I would want to know how he managed to keep his life in perspective despite his illness.

**WA: Along the same lines, if you could go back in time, at what one event in Lincoln's life would you most like to be present?**

PE-G: There would be two: one would be to see Lincoln sign the Emancipation Proclamation and the other would be at Ford's Theater—to prevent John Wilkes Booth from assassinating the president.

**WA: Other than Lincoln, what historical figure do you most admire?**

PE-G: I have always found Theodore Roosevelt very interesting. He created the modern presidency and was so passionate about living "the strenuous life." Besides TR, I also admire my great, great, great, great-grandfather Lieutenant John Crosier who served as a Minuteman at Lexington, Concord, and Bunker Hill, and served with George Washington at Monmouth and Germantown.

**WA: What lesson(s) do you think people can learn from studying Lincoln's life?**

PE-G: There are so many personal aspects to Lincoln's life that can inspire us as human beings - his kindness, his sense of humor, his love of animals, his dedication to a cause, and his fortitude while facing personal tragedies.

On a national level he offers us insights into handling adversity, staying the course while being able to adjust to changing circumstances, and articulating a vision of democracy that we can all be proud of.

**Award Committee:** *A special thanks to our dedicated members that served on the 2010 award committee.*

Steven R. Koppelman, Chair  
Joseph E. Garrera & Joseph A. Truglio

### ATTENTION MEMBERS: YOUR GENEROUS HELP IS REQUESTED...

As you're certainly aware, one of our most popular Lincoln Group of New York meeting events is the book raffle. What you might not know is that our members donate all of the books. That's where your help is needed. To keep this raffle going with high quality Lincoln publications, we respectfully request that if you have any books that you can spare for the raffle, simply bring them to the meeting and see one of our Executive Committee members to ensure that they're included in that night's raffle.

*Thank you, in advance, for anything you can contribute.*

**THE WIDE AWAKE** is a publication of The Lincoln Group of New York. We welcome your feedback, letters and comments, as well as news of your Lincoln related activities. Please direct your correspondence to:

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